

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

CATHY D. BROOKS-MCCOLLUM, :  
: Plaintiff,  
: v. : Civil Action No. 04-419 JJF  
: STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY, :  
: Defendant.

**RULE 16 SCHEDULING ORDER**

The parties having satisfied their obligations under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f),

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. **Pre-Discovery Disclosures.** The parties will exchange by **May 15, 2006** the information required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) and D. Del. LR 16.2.

2. **Joinder of other Parties.** All motions to join other parties shall be filed on or before **June 16, 2006**.

3. **Settlement Conference.** Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, this matter is referred to Magistrate Judge Thynge for the purposes of exploring the possibility of a settlement. If the parties agree that they would benefit from a settlement conference, the parties shall contact Magistrate Judge Thynge to schedule a settlement conference so as to be completed no later than the Pretrial Conference or a date ordered by the Court.

4. **Discovery.**

(a) Exchange and completion of interrogatories,

identification of all fact witnesses and document production shall be commenced so as to be completed by **September 29, 2006.**

(b) Maximum of **twenty (20)** interrogatories by each party to any other party.

(c) Maximum of **ten (10)** requests for admission by each party to any other party.

(d) Maximum of **four (4)** depositions by plaintiff and **four (4)** by defendant. Depositions shall not commence until the discovery required by Paragraph 4 (a, b and c) is completed.

(e) Reports from retained experts required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) are due from the plaintiff(s) by **October 6, 2006**; from the defendant(s) by **November 3, 2006.**

(f) Any party desiring to depose an expert witness shall notice and complete said deposition no later than **thirty (30)** days from receipt of said expert's report, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the parties.

#### 5. Discovery Disputes.

(a) A party seeking discovery which the opposing party refuses to provide shall file a motion (no brief) pursuant to Rule 37 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rule 37.1. Said motion shall not exceed a total of four (4) pages. An Answer to the Rule 37 motion, not to exceed four (4) pages, shall be filed within **five (5)** days of service of the motion. No reply is permitted.

(b) All papers shall set forth in a plain and concise manner the issue(s) in dispute, the party's position on the issue(s), and the reasons for the party's position.

(c) Upon receipt of the Answer, the movant shall notify Chambers by e-mail at jjf\_civil@ded.uscourts.gov that the parties have completed briefing.

(d) Upon receipt of the movant's e-mail, the Court will determine whether a conference is necessary and advise the parties accordingly.

(e) There is no limit on the number of Rule 37 motions a party may file, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

**6. Amendment of the Pleadings.** All motions to amend the pleadings shall be filed on or before **July 7, 2006**.

**7. Case Dispositive Motions.** Any case dispositive motions, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, shall be served and filed with an opening brief on or before **November 12, 2006**. Briefing shall be pursuant to D. Del. LR 7.1.2. No case dispositive motion may be filed more than **ten (10)** days from the above date without leave of the Court.

**8. Applications by Motion.**

(a) Any applications to the Court shall be by written motion filed with the Clerk of the Court in compliance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of Civil Practice for the United States District Court for the District of Delaware (Amended Effective January 1, 1995). Any

non-dispositive motion shall contain the statement required by D. Del. LR 7.1.1. Parties may file stipulated and unopposed Orders with the Clerk of the Court for the Court's review and signing. The Court will not consider applications and requests submitted by letter or in a form other than a motion.

(b) No facsimile transmissions will be accepted.  
(c) No telephone calls shall be made to Chambers.  
(d) Any party with a true emergency matter requiring the assistance of the Court shall e-mail Chambers at: jjf\_civil@ded.uscourts.gov. The e-mail shall provide a short statement describing the emergency.

**9. Pretrial Conference.** A Pretrial Conference will be held on **Thursday, January 11, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom No. 4B on the 4th Floor, Boggs Federal Building, Wilmington, Delaware. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 16.5 of the Local Rules of Civil Practice for the United States District Court for the District of Delaware (Amended Effective January 1, 1995) shall govern the pretrial conference;

**10. Trial.** Trial will be scheduled at the Pretrial Conference to commence within 120 days of the pretrial conference. Counsel should be available during the 120 day period for trial.

May 2, 2006  
DATE

Joseph J. Farnan, Jr.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE